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DIRECTORATE OF
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BOLIVIA: Military plans to remove President Ovando have been delayed, but perhaps not canceled.

Tension has eased in La Paz after a weekend of political moves and countermoves accompanied by widespread rumors of an impending coup. This latest crisis was touched off by a communiqué issued by a group of retired generals demanding Ovando's removal and the establishment of a date for general elections.

The communiqué apparently was coordinated with military headquarters and was designed to provoke a coup against Ovando. The President met with military leaders for more than six hours the night of 25-26 September--the first anniversary of his seizure of power. Some sort of compromise apparently was reached. [redacted] Ovando agreed to take a tougher stance toward student disruptions and to remove three leftist cabinet ministers at some future time. [redacted] [redacted] army commander General Miranda offered to resign when the commanders of the other two services failed to join him in demanding Ovando's resignation; his resignation was not accepted, however.

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NOTE

25X1 [ECUADOR: The military cracked down on opponents yesterday by arresting two party leaders whose speeches have been highly critical of the government. Since assuming dictatorial power on 22 June, the military-backed Velasco regime has tolerated little opposition, and even potential troublemakers have been jailed for short periods. The arrests are unlikely to halt the rising tempo of criticism, and military leaders, who have proven thin-skinned to verbal attacks, are likely to consider that more drastic measures are necessary to intimidate the opposition. [REDACTED]

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